

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): An isolated rpo B promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 11.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): An isolated atpB promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): An isolated clpP promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26, and SEQ ID NO: 31.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): An isolated 16SrDNA promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in the plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 28 and SEQ ID NO: 29.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A DNA construct for stably transforming the plastids of higher plants, comprising:

- a) a transcription unit encoding at least one exogenous protein of interest; and
- b) a NEP promoter and a PEP promoter in tandem, operably linked to said transcription unit, wherein expression of said transcription unit is regulated by said promoters,
wherein said NEP promoter is the NEP promoter from a gene

selected from the group consisting of clpP, rpoB, and atpB,
wherein said atpB gene is from a plant selected from the group
consisting of maize, sorghum, barley, wheat, tobacco, and
rice, wherein said rpoB gene is selected from the group
consisting of maize, rice, tobacco, and barley, and wherein
said clpP gene is from a plant selected from the group
consisting of maize, rice, tobacco, barley, and wheat; and
wherein said PEP promoter is Prn or is the PEP promoter
from a gene selected from the group consisting of rice rbcL,
maize rbcL, maize atpB, clpP, and barley 16SrDNA.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The DNA construct according to claim 5, wherein said NEP promoter is clpP-111 and said PEP promoter is Prn.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The DNA construct according to claim 5, wherein said NEP promoter is clpP-53 and said PEP promoter is Prn.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The DNA construct according to claim 6, wherein said Prn has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The DNA construct according to claim 7, wherein said Prn has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The DNA construct according to claim 5, wherein said PEP promoter is ~~the PEP promoter from a gene selected from the group consisting of rbcL, atpB, rice~~ clpP, and 16SrDNA.